

AVERAGE COMMUTE TIMES AND PRIMARY MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the average two-way commute time for Orange County residents, compared to other counties in the southern California region from 1992 to 1998. It also shows the primary mode of travel for Orange County residents from 1994 to 1998.

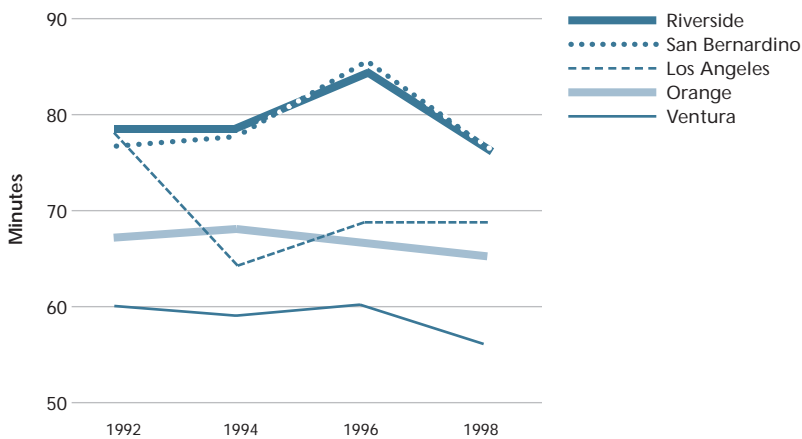
Why is it Important?

Traffic congestion and long commutes have a negative impact on personal perceptions of quality of life and on regional air quality. As employment and population continue to increase, hours of traffic delays and daily vehicle miles traveled per person are projected to increase as well.

How is Orange County Doing?

The average daily two-way commute time in Orange County has remained relatively constant between 1992 and 1998 at an average of 67 minutes each day. Orange County compares favorably to San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, where residents commute an average of 79 minutes a day. In Los Angeles County, the average commute is 70 minutes.

In general, Orange County residents are consistently more likely to drive alone than residents from other Southern California counties. Since 1994 over 80% of Orange County drivers travel alone as their primary mode of transportation. The rate of Orange County residents carpooling (12%) hit a five-year low in 1998, while the percentage of residents using public transit or walking to destinations has increased slightly during the same period.

Average Commuting Time to and From Work by Home County

Source: Southern California Association of Governments, State of the Commute Report, 1998